

DRAFTAGENDA ITEM: #7 KENT
DATE: AUGUST 15, 2014**Cambria CSD and List of Immediate Issues** DO NOT REMOVE FROM FILE
8/10/14

CSD is racing to complete a water project without the proper permits, citing emergency. Common thread throughout this narrative is the lack of standing committees at the CSD so that the public is never fully informed of projects and actions in a public forum. Decisions are made prior to the meetings. General Manager and District Engineer comments are brief and without elaboration, questions are not answered, and reports are missing sufficient backup data. Many complicated issues are contained on powerpoints that are not provided to the public prior to meetings. Timelines and budget information are written in very fine print so that the public cannot read the information at the meeting. Presentations are not provided to public prior to meetings, and powerpoints are not provided following decisions making public disclosure impossible. CSD Website is not updated in a timely manner and critical projects are hidden. Special meetings announced with very little public notice have become the norm.

Environmental Compliance Not Funded

- Instream flow studies not conducted on SanSimeon or Santa Rosa Creeks to provide baseline data on how much water is needed for habitat protection as recommended since at least 2001.
- Habitat Conservation Plan not conducted as recommended when WBE well levels were lowered from 5 feet to 3 feet.
- Cambria Forest Management Plan adopted but not funded.
- Build Out Reduction program adopted but not funded yet is cited as mitigation for new water supply.
- Sewage Spills cost Cambria at least \$200,000 in fines in the past several years.
- Infrastructure is leaking, water pouring down the streets and CSD crews unable to stop the flow in a timely manner.
- Water pumps have been found to be running without notice of CSD staff causing water losses.

Emergency Water Project at San Simeon Creek

This project alone has a 20 year history of denial, and regulatory hurdles that must be addressed - instead project is being done with County approved 'emergency' permits.

- Comments due August 18, construction activities, grading, pipelines, toxic brine reservoir all to be constructed in short period of time near State Parks Campgrounds. Pumping to affect endangered species with no controls. Claim of emergency excuse to construct without proper permits.
- CSD ignores agency recommendations and warnings
- CSD ignores CA Coastal warning not to sign loan agreement August 4, 2014

Santa Rosa Creek Water Extraction Permits and Mtbe

- CSD pumps SR1 well to give away nonpotable water in unlimited amounts during Stage 3 emergency instead of heeding warnings it will draw down our monitoring wells.
- CSD violating their SR extraction permit by drawing the WBE (Windsor Bridge East) monitoring well below required 3 feet. That level was required for habitat and endangered species protection.
- CSD pumped SR Creek for nonpotable water while MtBe case was still open exposing residents to possible contamination and health issues. Burton Dr. Property owners threaten suit.
- SR4 Wells required new sewer line installation but no permitting was done and no oversight

Rodeo Grounds Pump Station, Piney Way Erosion and Pipelines, and Stuart Street Tanks

- Final Project plans never submitted thru the proper channels although construction activities taking place on Santa Rosa Creek.
- Final plans not submitted yet for review to Land Use Committees or NCAC.
- Tree removals at Stuart ST. done w/o notice resulting in neighbor complaints.
- Noise and pump issues not sufficiently addressed at Stuart St.
- Pumps and tanks added at the Rodeo Grounds without permits or oversight.
- SR3 well pumped, and backwashed in creek without permits and oversight.
- Undergrounding of electric utilities not performed for new nonpotable water distribution system.
- More infrastructure being constructed rather than removed resulting in cumulative impacts to sensitive biological creek area.

Issuance of Water Permits and Development

- CSD continues to allow more water to be issued in a Stage 3 Emergency.
- New construction and remodels continue with 2:1 offsets but enforcement is lacking.
- Water for protection of species and habitat is ignored by CSD and County.
- Policy recommendations and denials of projects by the Land Use Committee and North Coast Advisory Council overridden by County.

Centrally Grown (formerly Hamlet site)

Project appealed by neighbor and appeal not yet heard by SLO Supervisors. Many conditions placed over project by NCAC.

- Developer appears to be violating construction permits and constructing unapproved buildings.
- Infrastructure appears too large for permitted development.
- Catering Trucks parked on site which is unpermitted.
- Grading appears too deep for approved development.
- SLO enforcement being relegated to the County building inspector.

Fiscalini Ranch construction

In process using existing EIR but problems occurring due to lack of biological monitoring and oversight.

- Eucalyptus trees cut down likely containing raptor nests and possible fledglings, monarch butterfly habitat.
- Grasses mowed in Spring when nests and eggs were likely to be present.
- Grasses mowed causing huge aerated dust clouds over entire area.
- Small eucalyptus is not removed which would be common sense approach
- Weed abatement is too severe for habitat promotion.
- Monterey Pines have been cut in County right of ways costing Cambria rather than the County.

Cambria Pines Christmas Market

Petition being circulated to support the XMas Market again this year. Intent is to have Market during every holiday season - Halloween, Thanksgiving, Xmas and Easter -

- Unpermitted construction not remediated.
- Buildings have not been removed that violate setback standards.
- Decks and platforms not removed.
- Unpermitted Monterey Pine and Oak tree removal not mitigated.
- Erosion controls measures not taken.
- Parking and traffic impacts not sufficiently addressed and parking was again out of control.
- No additional water has been provided for event and to mitigate impacts to resources.

Scarecrow Festival

- No mitigation for traffic issues with slow moving cars and abrupt stops to gawk at scarecrows.
- Event creates significant air quality impacts. It's as though Cambria installed 400 drive thru windows resulting in vehicle emissions far exceeding county standards while cars idle to photograph scarecrows. Drive thru's are not permitted in Cambria.
- Event does not promote a healthy, neighborhood 'walking' mentality.
- Event is expanding to San Simeon and no limits placed on number of scarecrows allowed .
- No additional water has been provided to offset impacts to area resources.

to be continued and website needs updating.

MARY WEBB

www.cambriawaterwatch.org